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FILE ONLY

101 Unethical Individuals'

Colorado's Schroeder Issues a 'Hit List'

By MIKE STALLARD

Hardly a week goes by in the Capitol during which someone doesn't conjure up a political "hit list" of some kind, either to embarrass or revenge someone or something. Likewise, allegations about personal wrongdoing or unethical conduct are flung about with such abandon as to leave barely a soul untouched. That's life in Washington, and most folks just ignore it for what it normally is: otherwise unoccupied minds attached to restless tongues.

But recently Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D.-Colo.) issued a political hit list that has established a new standard of nonsense for this type of soap-box thumping.

In a written statement presented to the Subcommittee on Human Resources and its chairman, Rep. Donald Albosta (D.-Mich.), Schroeder issued a list of "101 unethical individuals in the Reagan Administration" and their misdeeds. The supposed purpose of the testimony was to support strengthening the Ethics in Government Act, now being considered by the subcommittee. Even those stumbling around in the thick partisan fog of Washington will see that missing step in the staircase, however.

The documents dispenses with pretense quickly when in the *first* paragraph the liberal Democrat from Denver observes that "...more and more disclosures that top Administration officials have run afoul of ethical restrictions have filled the newspapers."

While still in the introduction, she plugs the proposed changes by noting, "Today, in the face of the 'Debategate' scandal and the questionable ethical practices by many Reagan appointees, it is necessary to once again strengthen the ethics law."

Elsewhere in the statement, the former attorney footnotes the source for her 101 indictments: "These charges involve instances of criminal wrongdoing, abuse of power and privilege, and improper behavior by officials in the Reagan Administration.

The allegations described come from newspaper reports."

Some of the congresswoman's charges look more like items suited for "People's Court," rather than congressional testimony.

Schroeder bends credibility to the breaking point when she goes after a few well-aided cases where she *refutes* by *allegation* the findings of official government investigators, the FBI, and others. She finds guilty, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, people who have already paid dearly in good name.

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"Max Hugel...CIA, allegedly... fraudulent stock dealing...." Yet never formally charged with anything since he left the government in 1981. [Editor's note: On September 26, Hugel was awarded a \$980,000 defamation judgment against the two men who made the original 1981 allegations.]

Schroeder attacks CIA Director William J. Casey with special fury. On the *first* page of her tale of sin she claims that the chief spook is the "unquestioned champion of ethical wrongdoing in this, or probably any, Administration."

Good grief! One scarcely knows where to begin with that one. You mean poor ol' Bill is worse, say, than Bobby Baker (or, for that matter, his boss)?

The main evidence of his depravity, according to the congresswoman, is that he "...failed to list more than \$250,000 in investment, \$500,000 in liabilities, names of 70 legal clients, four civil suits against him, and a number of corporations and foundations on whose boards he served on his *financial disclosure forms*." (Emphasis added.)

There's more. "Mr. Casey has also been accused of perjury in connection with his denial of involvement in stealing the briefing books...." This clever twist is added in spite of a recent congressional report, thicker than *War and Peace* and costing basketsful of money, that proved absolutely nothing except that if wishes were horses, Mrs. Schroeder and her buddies would own a stable.

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EXCERPTED